

law enforcement officials have responded. You need to know that we are doing—my most important job and the most important job of your Government is to protect the American people, and we will do so with all our vigor and all our might.

As I said in my State of the Union, I stand in awe of the American people and in awe of the citizens of New York City. This great city refused, absolutely refused, to be intimidated. This city, it stood in defiance of evil. And America watched, and America was impressed, and so was your President. I've been impressed—[*applause*].

I'm asked all the time by people, "What can I do to help?" You see, as you probably can tell, I don't see many shades of gray in this world. Either you're with us, or you're against us. Either you support evil, or you support good. This great Nation stands on the side of good. And for those who want to help, you can do so by acts of kindness. You can do so by showing compassion to your neighbor.

And it doesn't require much. Walking across the street to a shut-in to say, "I care for you; I hope you're okay," is an act of kindness that will stand in the face of evil. Mentoring a child who can't read is an act of kindness which stands in the face of evil. Saying to a child whose parent is in prison, "America belongs to you just as much as it does to me," is an act of kindness in the face of evil. The gathering momentum of a million acts of kindness and compassion is how America can stand strong in the face of evil. And make no mistake about it, that is how America is responding.

I believe out of this great evil will come great good. I believe the world will be more peaceful when we accomplish our mission. And I know our country is beginning to make different kinds of choices. The old culture said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it. Now we've learned a new ethic, and it had to do with Flight 93. When people on that airplane said a prayer, told their wives they loved them, and drove the plane in the ground to save others' lives, we're beginning to get a sense of sacrifice.

We saw it here in New York City, where firefighters and policemen rushed into buildings to save others. This Nation is in the proc-

ess, I believe, of ushering in a period where we said, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. We're responsible for loving a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves. We're responsible for loving our children. We're responsible for the communities in which we live.

No, they hit us, and they're going to pay a terrible price. But as a result, our Nation will be stronger and more compassionate and more decent. It will hold more promise for people who are lucky enough to call themselves Americans.

I love being the President of a nation whose strength is not its Government, whose strength is the American people. I'm proud to be here.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:40 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Sandy Treadwell, chairman, New York Republican State Committee; Lt. Gov. Mary O. Donohue of New York; and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City.

**Executive Order 13255—
Amendment to Executive Order
13227, President's Commission on
Excellence in Special Education**
February 6, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the reporting date of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13227 of October 2, 2001, is amended by deleting "April 30, 2002" in section 3(b) of that order and inserting in lieu thereof "July 1, 2002".

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 6, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:44 a.m., February 7, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 8.

**Remarks at the National
Prayer Breakfast**
February 7, 2002

Thank you very much, John. Laura and I are really honored to join you this morning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Prayer Breakfast. And Admiral Clark, whatever prayer you used for eloquence, worked. [*Laughter*] I appreciate your message, and I appreciate your service to our great country.

I want to thank Jon Kyl and Judge Sentelle for their words, and CeCe for your music. I appreciate getting the chance to meet Joe Finley, New York City firefighter. He's a living example of what sacrifice and courage means. Thank you for coming, Joe.

I want to thank Congressman Bart Stupak. I really appreciate the fact that my National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, is here to offer prayer. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to say hello to the Members of Congress.

I'm particularly grateful to Lisa Beamer for her reading and for her example. I appreciate her example of faith made stronger in trial. In the worst moments of her life, Lisa has been a model of grace, her own and the grace of God. And all America welcomes into the world Todd and Lisa's new daughter, Morgan Kay Beamer.

Since we met last year, millions of Americans have been led to prayer. They have prayed for comfort in time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, for protection in a time of uncertainty. Many, including me, have been on bended knee. The prayers of this Nation are a part of the good that has come from the evil of September the 11th, more good than we could ever have predicted. Tragedy has brought forth the courage and the generosity of our people.

None of us would ever wish on anyone what happened on that day. Yet, as with each life, sorrows we would not choose can bring wisdom and strength gained in no other way. This insight is central to many faiths and cer-

tainly to the faith that finds hope and comfort in a cross.

Every religion is welcomed in our country; all are practiced here. Many of our good citizens profess no religion at all. Our country has never had an official faith. Yet we have all been witnesses these past 21 weeks to the power of faith to see us through the hurt and loss that has come to our country.

Faith gives the assurance that our lives and our history have a moral design. As individuals, we know that suffering is temporary, and hope is eternal. As a nation, we know that the ruthless will not inherit the Earth. Faith teaches humility and, with it, tolerance. Once we have recognized God's image in ourselves, we must recognize it in every human being.

Respect for the dignity of others can be found outside of religion, just as intolerance is sometimes found within it. Yet for millions of Americans, the practice of tolerance is a command of faith. When our country was attacked, Americans did not respond with bigotry. People from other countries and cultures have been treated with respect, and this is one victory in the war against terror.

At the same time, faith shows us the reality of good and the reality of evil. Some acts and choices in this world have eternal consequences. It is always and everywhere wrong to target and kill the innocent. It is always and everywhere wrong to be cruel and hateful, to enslave and oppress. It is always and everywhere right to be kind and just, to protect the lives of others, and to lay down your life for a friend.

The men and women who charged into burning buildings to save others, those who fought the hijackers were not confused about the difference between right and wrong. They knew the difference. They knew their duty. And we know their sacrifice was not in vain.

Faith shows us the way to self-giving, to love our neighbor as we would want to be loved ourselves. In service to others, we find deep human fulfillment. And as acts of service are multiplied, our Nation becomes a more welcoming place for the weak and a better place for those who suffer and grieve.

For half a century now, the National Prayer Breakfast has been a symbol of the vital